

labor than that of collecting isolated facts. The principal difficulties have arisen, (1) from a want of suitable records. A few of the first settlers were in the habit of making brief notes of events, which have been of great service. Many of the facts, however, are from eye-witnesses. Difficulties have also (2) arisen from indistinct memory—(3) conflicting accounts—and (4) from the death of some who were familiar with the early history of the settlement.

Since receiving your note requesting its publication, much additional matter has been added to it, and some corrections made which have been kindly suggested by those who heard it. In its present form it is much enlarged, and will be of much more value as a book of historical reference. It has been my great object to give a lucid, correct, and impartial narrative. That inaccuracies have crept into it, would be folly to deny. If the long delay in furnishing the manuscript needs further apology, it will be sufficient to say, that the author has ever regarded its preparation as secondary to his professional duties. Having charge of a large parish, little time could be devoted to this work. He has also had an unusual demand upon his time and efforts since its delivery.

It has been said by a distinguished historian of this State, that "concerning the early settlement of this county, little has been preserved." Hoping that this discourse may furnish some materials for a future history of this county, encourage similar efforts in other localities, and promote the interests of intelligence and truth—I herewith furnish you the manuscript.

Very truly

Your friend and fellow-citizen,

SAMUEL WHALEY.

WILLIAM B. STONE, and others.

DISCOURSE.

"Hearken thou, ye old men, And give ear all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath ~~not~~ been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers? Told ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation?"
—Joel i. 2, 3.

WITH these words the prophet Joel opens the narrative of events contained in his prophecy. These events were even then transpiring, or about to transpire. They were matters of great interest and importance to all the people. He appeals to the old men whether such events as were about to take place ever occurred in their days, or in the days of their fathers. They are such as should and would be remembered. They affected the whole land, and were of interest to all the people. The prophet, therefore, requires that they should be related repeatedly, and handed down from one generation to another.

The importance of historical narratives was understood at a very early day. Events of a public and important nature, were in various ways carefully preserved: these formed a ground of admonition and instruction. It is, therefore, a duty incumbent upon us, who have so much greater facilities to record the events of the past, for the benefit of those yet to come upon the stage of action. Let me then invite your attention to the history of this Township, which is